

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 and 37-42 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 25, 31, 33, 34 and 37-40 are independent. By this Amendment, claim 33 is amended. No new matter is added. Claims 11-32, 38 and 39 stand withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTION – 35 USC §103

Claims 1-10, 33-34, 37 and 40-42 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shim et al. (US 6,844,717) in view of Hyoung (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/215257). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Neither Shim nor Hyoung, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features recited in the rejected claims. For example, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest a semiconductor device test apparatus, comprising a soak chamber, a test chamber, and a de-soak chamber, wherein the soak chamber, the test chamber, and the de-soak chamber are attached to the main body and separable from the main body, as recited in independent claim 1.

Shim relates to a test handler for testing an electric component, such as an integrated circuit or a semiconductor chip (column 1, lines 6-11). Although Shim discloses a soak chamber 162, a test chamber 163 and a de-soak chamber 164, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Shim that such chambers are separable from the main body 110. Rather, Shim discloses that the soak chamber, test chamber and de-soak chamber are “in the bottom side of the handler main body” (column 1, lines 41-45). Thus, Shim fails to disclose or suggest the features as alleged in the Office Action.

Moreover, Hyoung fails to overcome the deficiencies of Shim. The English language Abstract of Hyoung describes a device for testing semiconductor devices that includes a preheating chamber for heating/cooling the device, a test chamber for testing the preheated device and a restoring chamber for restoring the tested device to a normal temperature. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion of any of these chambers being separable from the main body. Rather, it appears from Fig. 1 that the chambers are within the main body and not separable therefrom. Thus, the combination of references fails to render at least claims 1 and 7 obvious.

In rejecting independent claims 3, 5 and 6, it is alleged in the Office Action that Shim discloses all of the features recited therein except for loading and unloading robots that move in both X axis and Y axis directions. However, although the Examiner alleges that Shim discloses the features, no evidence is provided in the Office Action to support the rejection. For example, it is alleged in the Office Action that Shim discloses “a stacker for stacking devices before and after a test, the stacker including user trays for stacking devices, wherein the user trays are interchangeable such that the user trays may be used to stack the devices prior to the test and to stack the devices after the test,” as recited in claim 3. Specifically, it is alleged that Shim discloses the user trays are equivalent to test trays 70, and that the user trays are interchangeable. However, it does not appear from a reading of Shim that the user trays and the test trays are equivalent because the user trays are loaded into a user tray supplier 10 and are placed into an unloading side set plate and that the devices on the user trays are transferred to test trays 70 for testing. Thus, there is no disclosure in Shim that the user trays and test trays are interchangeable, as alleged in the Office Action, or that the user trays are equivalent to the test trays.

Regarding independent claim 5, it is alleged, without supporting evidence, that Shim discloses that the user tray functions are interchangeable during a stacking operation. However, the Examiner provides no disclosure of where in Shim such a feature is disclosed. When indicating that a rejection is under 35 U.S.C. §103, the Examiner should set forth in the Office Action (A) the relevant teachings of the prior art relied upon, preferably with reference to the relevant column or page number and line numbers where appropriate. Further, when rejecting claims for obviousness, the Examiner must designate the particular part relied on as nearly as practicable (37 C.F.R. §1.104). However, because no supporting evidence is provided that shows that Shim discloses or suggests the features recited in the rejected claim, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Similarly, in rejecting independent claim 6, it is alleged that Shim discloses “a stacker having a user tray feeder which loads a plurality of user trays having a desired quantity of devices to be tested and a user tray sender which loads the plurality of user trays having the devices sorted by their grades in accordance with the test result.”

As discussed above, when rejecting claims for obviousness, the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable. In the present case, there is no indication of where, or if, Shim discloses the claimed feature.

Regarding independent claim 33, it is alleged that Shim discloses that operating speeds of the loading robot, the sorting robot, and the unloading robot are determined based on a speed of testing the device. However, there is no indication in the Office Action of where in the applied reference of Shim such a feature is disclosed. In fact, Shim is silent as to the determination of

operating speeds of the loading robot 90 and sorting robot 80. As such, Shim fails to disclose the features alleged in the Office Action.

Similarly, it is alleged that Shim discloses a robot that receives control signals to carry a device of a calculated speed, the calculated speed corresponding based on a time of test execution. In this rejection, the Office Action fails to provide any evidence of where Shim discloses such a feature. In fact, there is no disclose or suggestion in Shim of the robots 90-92 receiving such a control signal or the speeds involved in the operations of the robots.

Regarding claim 40, it is alleged that Shim discloses calculating a desired speed value of the robot corresponding to the test time detected and informing the corresponding robot of the calculated speed value to the control the speed of the robot. However, in rejecting the claim, only the robot 90 is identified and there is no evidence provided to support the rejection of claim 40. In fact, Shim fails to disclose or suggest calculating a desired speed value of the robot corresponding to the test timed detected and informing the corresponding robot of the calculated speed value to control the speed of the robot.

As the additional reference Hyoung fails to overcome any of the deficiencies of Shim, the combination of references fails to render the rejected claims obvious. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of the rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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